

Where's The Art?



The percentage of high school graduates earning visual arts credits increased from 44% in 1982 to 52.7% in 1998. This growth was most likely due in part to increased policies for state course credit requirements for high school graduation.

In 2000, 22 states reported an arts credit requirement for graduation. Another 9 states include credits to students who take advanced classes such as Honors Diplomas, College Path, et. al. Seventeen states do not require arts as a part of graduation requirements.

An NAEA study found 11% of the high schools did not count arts grades when computing grade point averages for transcripts. In another study of university admissions we found only 35% counted arts grades when computing GPA's; 65% do not. Only eleven states have statewide arts requirements for college admission; 39 states do not.

One wonders why high school students would want to enroll in art (or music, theatre, dance) when their arts grades might be weighted less than other high school courses, might not be counted on the transcript GPA ranking being sent for university application, or might not be counted in the GPA by the university itself? Such policy deficiencies and practices shortchange students and some are being left behind.

We need better arts education gateway policies for our students!

What Can You Do?

- *Lead efforts to generate public understanding of the ideas behind the importance of art education policies that promote student learning in art.*
- *Encourage parents, school boards, legislators, press/media to support better policies for art education programs that lead to student learning in art.*
- *Spend time at public meetings to review how art education policies can enhance the quality of art education for all students.*

SUPPORT IMPROVING ART EDUCATION GATEWAY POLICIES.

THE NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
1916 ASSOCIATION DRIVE ■ RESTON, VA 20191-1590 ■ 703-860-8000